

## **Venerable Professor Dhammavihari Thera**

Venerable Dhammavihari Nayaka Thera of today, better known in his lay life among Buddhist scholars as Professor Jotiya Dhirasekera, was ordained as a member of the Buddhist Sangha on 18th May 1990 at the age of sixty-nine. He graduated from the University of Ceylon, Colombo in 1945, majoring in Sanskrit with First Class Honours. He was thereafter invited to lecture in the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies. From 1949 to 1951 he was at the University of Cambridge, England where he pursued studies in Chinese, Japanese and Tibetan.

He has taught Buddhism and Pali at the Universities of Colombo [from 1946 to 1949] and Peradeniya [from 1952 to 1969]. In 1964, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, awarded him the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy for his thesis on Buddhist Monastic Discipline. From 1969 to 1973, he was Professor of Buddhist Studies at the University of Toronto in Canada.

Since his return to Sri Lanka in 1973, he has held many distinguished academic positions such as Editor-in-Chief of the Encyclopaedia of Buddhism, and Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies. He is a popular writer and is the author of numerous monographs, including his latest anthology on Buddhism [2006], a rich collection of 19 essays in 199 pages entitled DHARMA, covering Man, Religion, Society and Governance in Buddhism. His magnum opus, Buddhist Monastic Discipline, is published in the Ministry of Higher Education Research Publication Series, Sri Lanka, 1982. The second edition of this book has just seen the light of day.

He is a regular broadcaster and has been involved in analysing and critically examining issues of social and religious significance in Buddhism, through the media of the press, radio and the television, both at national and international levels. He has already set up two websites delivering the message of Buddhism to the world.

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